

of force, especially a shooting. Our leaders ought to let those inquiries occur in a calm, dispassionate setting and call upon all other citizens to do the same. They certainly should never condone rioting.

When the use of force is justified, we ought to support the officer, and when it is not, the public demands accountability.

During my visits around the State, I met with several veteran officers, but I also spoke with many new recruits and newly hired officers. You might expect these rookies to be discouraged by anti-police protests and the recent assassinations of law enforcement officers. On the contrary, they said they were more motivated than ever to prove themselves to the people they serve and to honor the sacrifices of those officers killed in the line of duty. We are lucky to have men and women like them.

As I left my meeting with the officers at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, I stopped to pay my respects at the Hall of Honor, a memorial dedicated to the troopers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Toward the back of the room, above a small star for each lost trooper, inscribed in the wall are the words "In Valor There is Hope." These words are particularly poignant right now.

I am grateful for every officer at every department and agency who displays professionalism and courage in the face of danger every day. In their valor, the American people do, indeed, find hope.

Thank you.

God bless our men and women in blue.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY WINTERSON

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, today I rise to celebrate the retirement of Emily Winterston, an immigration specialist in my Boston office, who has served the people of Massachusetts and the United States for over 32 years.

Emily began working in the Senate on March 7, 1984, and has worked for four consecutive Massachusetts Senators since then. First, Emily worked in the office of Senator Ted Kennedy for over 20 years. When Senator Kennedy passed, she stayed on to work for Senator Paul Kirk, then Senator Scott Brown, and now she has been on my team in the Boston office since I was sworn in.

As my colleagues know well, there are two parts to a Senate office. The side the Nation hears about most often and is in the news is the legislative work we do right here in Washington.

But there is an equally important side to our work, and that is the help we provide back home. We would not be able to offer this critical help without devoted people like Emily Winterston. Emily has committed entirely to this work, and she has touched the lives of countless families across the State of Massachusetts. With her years of expertise and her relentless determination, she has helped people navigate our complex immigration system, and she does it all with exceptional humility and grace.

When someone has a last-minute passport problem and may not be able to make the trip with the group from the temple or the church, Emily has been the one to cut through the red-tape. When a student needs a visa to be able to attend one of our great universities, Emily is there. When extraordinary musicians or performers from around the world needed help getting into the country, Emily was there. When families needed her most, when foreign adoptions were tangled up and families were divided or stranded, Emily was there. When sick children needed to get medical care at world-class hospitals in Boston and around our State, Emily was there. No matter the issue, Emily always knew the right people to call to get results in government offices both here and abroad—and they all knew Emily.

There are too many stories to count, but I want to tell just one. A young woman came from China to the United States to study medicine at Boston University. While she was here, she was diagnosed with leukemia. She had no family in America and she desperately needed help getting a visa for her sister to come to the United States to help take care of her. As have so many others, she reached out to Emily for help.

Now, Emily was able to get the visa for her sister to come and to support her through a long and very difficult treatment, but the story doesn't stop there. Without any form of financial support and unable to work, the young woman faced eviction. Together with the help of Catholic Charities, Emily helped secure the funds needed to help her get caught up on her rent.

During all of this, the young woman's student visa expired, which left her ineligible for health care. Once again, Emily got to work and was able to obtain deferred action on her visa. Emily even helped her find an apartment near the hospital when she was being treated, and in her usual "do more than anyone would expect," Emily even helped her furnish the place.

Still, the young woman's health worsened. As she was nearing her final days, her last wish was to see her mother, whom she had not seen for 12 years during her studies. Again, Emily concentrated all of her efforts on securing an expedited visa for her mother so she could be with her before she passed. Because of Emily's tireless work, this young woman, far from home, spent her final days with the support and care of her mother and her sister.

Emily was there for her through thick and thin. When this young woman needed help and had no one to turn to, Emily was there. With steadfast commitment, Emily fought for her.

Now, this is just one of many stories that together form the fabric of Emily's life work. At a time when many Americans feel that government is not working for them, a system that too often overlooks those in need, Emily is a shining example of the powers of public service. She embodies the link between government and the people. She has dedicated her working life to making government fulfill its most fundamental mission—improving the lives of the people it serves.

Emily Winterston has shown us all that when we take time to listen to someone's story, when we have the compassion to care about their troubles and the determination to fight on their behalf, we have the power to improve each other's lives. This is government by the people and for the people. Emily is American politics at its best. This is the legacy that Emily leaves behind.

We will all miss her greatly. Although we are sad to see Emily leave, we could not be happier for her as she begins her much earned retirement in October. I know she is looking forward to gardening, to working on her memoirs, and to spending more time with her children and her grandchildren.

So, Emily, on behalf of the people fortunate enough to work alongside you, for the State of Massachusetts and for the thousands of people you have served, thank you. We wish you the best as you move into the next chapter of your life.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND HEROIN EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I want to start by thanking my colleague from Indiana for his indulgence, and I look forward to hearing his remarks. We were both on the floor today waiting to speak while we tried to work out differences with the continuing resolution. I am hopeful those issues can be

resolved so we can have a process to move forward with our spending bills.

In the meantime, I need to talk on the floor today about an ongoing issue in all of our communities around the country, sadly, which is this issue of prescription drug abuse, heroin, and now fentanyl. It is really an epidemic. It is now the No. 1 cause of accidental death in my home State of Ohio, and more recently it is the No. 1 cause of accidental death in our country, surpassing car accidents. It is something that is taking thousands of lives every year, and it is something that is tearing families apart, causing crime, creating real hardship for so many families, and hurting the economy.

President Obama and his administration declared this week Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week, and I commend him for that. I think raising the awareness of this issue is really important right now. Having a national conversation on this issue is really important right now.

This is the opportunity I take every week to come to the floor. I have been doing it since before we passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act back in March. I come every week to talk on the floor about the importance of addressing the issue. Initially, it was to get the legislation passed, and we did that. Now we are implementing the legislation and even adding additional legislation because of this new wave of addiction that we are seeing and overdoses and deaths based on synthetic heroin, also called fentanyl or carfentanil or U-4, which is coming into our communities.

About once a month, I have a tele-townhall, and I ask people on the call a number of questions that they answer about their top priorities. I started out by asking this question: How many of you have been directly affected by the heroin and prescription drug epidemic in Ohio? I will tell you, sadly, that in the last few calls we have had surprising results, which is that roughly half of the people on the call say they have been affected, whether I am calling people in Cleveland, Columbus, or in rural areas—no matter where it is. I recently called people in Canton, OH, and Wood County, outside of Toledo, and 49 percent of the people on the call said yes, they have been affected directly.

Earlier this month I talked to people in my town of Cincinnati, and it was 51 percent. Here is something even more alarming. A couple of months ago, I called people in southeast Ohio. Some of you know that Portsmouth, OH, is an area that, unfortunately, has been hit particularly hard. In fact, there is a book that some may have read, and if you have not and you are interested in this issue, I would recommend it. It is called "Dreamland," by a man named Sam Quinones. What the author talks about is the history behind this prescription drug, heroin, and opioid epidemic and some suggestions for us on how to address it.

In any case, I called southeast Ohio. "Dreamland" is based on a community center swimming pool. It is the name of a swimming pool in Portsmouth, OH, and 68 percent of the people on the call said they were directly affected. Typically, we have about 20 to 25,000 people on the call, and 68 percent said they were directly affected. That is alarming, but it doesn't surprise me because I see it when I am home.

So many other people are seeing it now, too. As some know, recently there was something that went viral on Facebook. It was a photograph of two people passed out in the front of a car and a child in the backseat. It happened in northeast Ohio, in East Liverpool, OH. This has been shared thousands and thousands of times, and commented on thousands and thousands of times. The two people in the front seat were the grandmother and her boyfriend and a grandson was in the backseat, age 4. They were passed out, overdosed in the front seat, and he was looking confused and alarmed in the backseat.

This, unfortunately, is something that is happening around our country. The East Liverpool police said at the time:

It is time that the non-drug-using public sees what we are dealing with on a daily basis. . . . The poison known as heroin has taken a strong grip on many communities—not just ours.

I agree with them. They see these images every day, not just in East Liverpool but in your hometown and in your county. This is not the only child who has watched his parents overdose. In Cleveland, 2 weeks ago, a 6-year-old boy was found in Barkwell Park shaking and crying next to his parents, who were both unconscious from heroin overdoses.

Another incident that has received national attention is the spike of 24 heroin overdoses in Akron, OH, 1 week ago today. So far 112 people in Akron, OH, have died from overdoses this year. That is already a record. Already this year more people have died in Akron than all of last year. This follows an even larger spike of overdoses in my hometown of Cincinnati, OH, where since August 19, there have been 300 heroin overdoses. During a 6-day period there were 174 overdoses. I went to the firehouse that responded to the largest number of those overdoses and talked to the firefighters about it. They talked about administering Narcan. This miracle drug actually can reverse the overdose. Typically, it is administered once. With regard to these overdoses, they saved so many lives—34 lives. They had to use Narcan not once, not twice, not three times but four or five times. We found out later—and I was able to get samples to Cincinnati to find this out—that there was carfentanil mixed with the heroin. This is a synthetic drug that traffickers are now using that is far more powerful even than heroin. Carfentanil is actually something that is a sedative for

large animals such as elephants, and yet traffickers are using this along with heroin.

The Hamilton County coroner confirmed that eight of the overdoses in this 6-day period were a direct result of carfentanil. Some of these victims were not brought back to life. Some of them did pass away. But these brave first responders responded quickly, professionally, and were able to save all but 4 or 5 lives out of 174 in a 6-day period—incredible. This new drug called fentanyl is incredibly powerful. It is a substance so strong that only a few flakes of it ingested by a human being can kill them.

If you want an idea of how addictive this stuff is, consider the story of a woman in Massillon, OH, who last Saturday used heroin with her boyfriend. He died of an overdose right next to her, and, according to police, after he died, she left his corpse lying there for 11 hours while she went out to get more heroin.

I have met with addicts who are still using, and I have met with those in recovery all over Ohio. I have met with several hundred people who have a story to tell. I am told again and again by those in recovery the same thing: The drug becomes everything. The drug becomes more important than family, more important than work, more important than anything, leading them to do what many of these people have never done before, which is commit crimes to pay for their habit.

As addictive as heroin is, fentanyl can be 50 to 100 times more powerful. According to the DEA, the Drug Enforcement Agency, carfentanil can be many times more powerful, 10 times as powerful as morphine. It is used primarily to take down elephants and used as a sedative. The police officer in Newtown, OH, who heads up our Hamilton County drug task force said: "The side effect of carfentanil is death."

These synthetic drugs are contributing in Ohio to our rapid increase in overdoses. Since 2000, the number of annual opioid overdoses in Ohio has increased dramatically. We are losing one life to overdose every 3 hours. We happen to have information now coming in on fentanyl. Just in the last 2 years, according to records, from 2013 to 2015, we saw a 13-fold increase in fentanyl-related deaths. Just 3 years ago, about 1 in 20 deaths in Ohio was a result of fentanyl. Now it is more than one in three. Sadly, I expect that number to rise substantially this year, based on the information we have.

The message today for those who might be listening or a family member who might be listening is, if you are suffering from this addiction, get treatment. Find some place that provides treatment, longer term recovery. This legislation, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which passed this House with a vote of 92 to 2, will help provide for treatment and recovery. It is the first time we have ever dealt with recovery in the Congress. It is very important.

If you don't know whether the heroin that is on the street contains these deadly synthetic drugs, you need to be extremely, extremely careful. As Coroner Sammarco in Hamilton County puts it, every time you buy heroin or every time you inject it, "you may be literally gambling with your life."

These drugs that are devastating Ohio don't come from Ohio. They don't come from any of our States. We are told they come from overseas, primarily from China. There are laboratories in China that are developing this poison—this fentanyl and carfentanil. Some of the labs, we are told, also are in India.

The drugs that are coming from China and India then come through the U.S. mail. It comes from their postal system and our postal system into the United States. It is unbelievable, but the poison is coming in the mail to our communities. It is easy to do. Because unlike private carriers, such as UPS or FedEx, in the mail system a package can be sent without having any information attached to it. It shouldn't be that easy, and it doesn't have to be. We want to close this loophole. It is a commonsense idea that will help to keep our streets safer and help prevent some of these deadly overdoses from synthetic heroin.

Customs and Border Protection has told us that if we had advance electronic data on these packages from overseas, like we must have from private carriers, such as UPS or FedEx, it would help to ensure that these dangerous drugs wouldn't end up in the hands of the drug traffickers or, worse yet, in the hands of our family members and friends.

That is why we introduced the Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention Act, or STOP Act. It is very simple. It is to help keep this poison off the streets by closing a loophole and requiring that same advance electronic data to come with all these packages coming from overseas showing where it is coming from, what is in it, and where it is going. They are using the mail system because they don't have to provide that now.

This legislation goes hand in hand with the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act that we talked about earlier, which both Houses passed by nearly unanimous votes and the President signed in July. This legislation is a tremendous step forward and is very comprehensive, dealing with the prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery and helping to provide law enforcement officers with the Narcan they need. It helps in getting the drugs off the shelves with the take-back program. It is a good bill, but I think this is complementary to it—to deal with it now and to stop this new surge of fentanyl and carfentanil.

I urge the administration, especially in light of these tragic events recently and during this Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week to implement the CARA legislation as

soon as possible. There are a number of new programs that must be implemented for our veterans and for pregnant women and the babies born with dependency to ensure they are getting the funding that they need. The President and the administration, if they get these programs up and running, will be able to make a bigger difference sooner.

Let's also increase the funding for opioid programs. We have a 47-percent increase in the funding for this year, the fiscal year we are in right now. But we are coming to the end of the fiscal year. CARA has another \$181 million per year in authorized funding per year going forward for this opioid issue—heroin, prescription drugs, fentanyl. We should make a down payment for that in this continuing resolution. I know it is only a short-term continuing resolution that we are talking about on the floor here today in order to keep the funding going. We need to make a down payment to ensure CARA is funded.

If you are one of the 92 Senators who supported the CARA Act, I hope you will look at the STOP Act. It is complementary to CARA. It will help deal with the very real problems we face by limiting the supply of these dangerous drugs. It is a bipartisan bill. Last week, PATRICK TIBERI and RICHARD NEAL introduced the STOP Act in the House. So we have a companion bill in the House that is bipartisan. They both have a real passion for this issue, and I appreciate them.

Everything that we are doing in this area is important right now. Every Senator should be involved. If you are tough on crime, you should care about the increase in crime that is being created by this. If you are concerned about the innocent victims of an addiction epidemic, you should support this legislation to help protect those children who are being born with addictions. If you want to be tougher on China or if you want better border security, you should support this legislation to try to shut off this poison coming into our States from other countries. If you care about—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 10 minutes.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, again, this is an issue that has brought us all together in the past. Let's continue to work together on this on a bipartisan basis to begin to turn the tide on this epidemic before it is too late, before we lose more of our young people, before we have more communities devastated by this crisis.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Senator from Michigan.

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the incredible future of mobility in this country. Earlier this week, the Department of Transportation, or DOT, made history by releasing its official Federal policy for automated vehicles. This marks a major milestone in the effort to bring driverless cars to American roads and to ensure that our country remains the world leader in the next generation of transportation.

DOT's Federal policy contains four key components. The first outlines a 15-point safety assessment for the safe design, development, testing, and deployment of automated vehicles. This is a meaningful first step, the first Federal guidance for automotive manufacturers seeking to develop and deploy these new technologies.

The second component outlines the distinct Federal and State roles for regulation of automated vehicles, moving us toward a uniform national framework for the regulation in this space.

Third, the policy makes a Federal commitment to expedite the safe introduction of automated vehicles into the marketplace. The Department of Transportation will streamline its procedures to be more responsive to consumers and innovative manufacturers alike.

Finally, the policy presents a number of novel considerations that Congress should closely examine. This includes new tools and authorities that the DOT might need in the future as automated vehicle technology advances and we begin to see deployment on a much wider scale.

Last year, over 35,000 lives were lost in motor vehicle crashes. We saw the largest annual percentage rise in deaths on our roads for the past 50 years—50. This is simply unacceptable. Connected and automated vehicle technologies have the potential to drastically reduce this troubling statistic and help ensure that at the end of the day, our children, our parents, and all of our family and friends are able to travel on our roads and make it home safe and sound.

We need to roll up our sleeves and do our part to ensure successful implementation of this policy. Many of our existing laws and regulations were enacted long before modern vehicles. Now is the time to consider updating policies from a time when the most advanced onboard electronics in our cars and trucks were AM radios. We need to do this the right way and ensure that these cars and trucks are introduced safely as we work through the challenges facing wide-scale deployment and the adoption of these absolutely revolutionary technologies. This means we need to take a hard look at issues such as automotive liability, consumer education, data and cyber security, and the future of the American workforce.

As a member of Senate Commerce Committee and as the cofounder of the